

MAJOR DUTIES

Serves as Boatswain aboard an automated, seagoing hopper dredge. The main function of this dredge is to maintain entrances, estuaries, harbors and channels. The dredge is highly automated and equipped with sophisticated electro-hydraulic and electronic equipment to perform the dredging function. Operates ship's launch and vehicle as required.

1. Assigns, directs, provides guidance for and inspects the work of a small crew of deckhands engaged in routine deckhand work. Gives training to new deckhands in new work. The deckhands are engaged in handling, fastening, and casting off mooring lines when docking and undocking the vessel; caring for, renewing, and assisting in splicing; performing light rigging; chipping, scraping; and painting hull elements and various parts of the dredge; cleaning, greasing, and repairing deck machinery and equipment; loading, unloading and storing supplies, and general upkeep of the vessel.
2. Performs the more difficult ship rigging, including installation and repair. Rigs, equips, and stows lifeboats and rafts. Makes rope and cable slings and rigs heavy articles for lifting. Ties a variety of bends and hitches; splices and lashes ropes and steel cables. Cuts, sews, installs and repairs canvas equipment covers and tarpaulin. Installs grommets. Uses acetylene and electric welding equipment to perform simplified types of structural welding throughout the vessel. Uses cutting torches in removing metal materials, and in cutting parts to size and shape.
3. Determines supplies and tools needed and notifies Master or Mate of needs. Is in charge of storeroom for deck equipment and operating supplies. Maintains lifesaving and firefighting equipment, shop's gear, and rigging in good working order.
4. Instructs personnel in safe work methods and in proper utilization of safety and emergency equipment. Insures that subordinate personnel comply with all pertinent safety regulations. Trains subordinates in safe work methods and utilization of all prescribed safety equipment. Inspects, checks and maintains lifesaving and firefighting equipment, ships gear and rigging to ensure that they are properly installed and in good working order. Serves as crew leader during fire and lifeboat drills. Inspects crews quarters for cleanliness and orderliness and ensures that corridors, companionways, exits and ladders are kept clear of obstructions
5. Conducts personnel administration by assigning work to subordinates. Plans regular and emergency work requirements. Initiates or participates in review and improvement of work methods and structuring positions. Evaluates results of work in terms of economy, simplicity, and accuracy. Establishes performance requirements and prepares regular performance appraisals. Periodically reviews job descriptions of subordinates for currency and accuracy. Counsels employees regarding conduct, leave, benefits, and non-performance and initiates necessary disciplinary action. Promotes participation of subordinates in programs such as safety, cost reduction, incentive awards, suggestions, and EEO. Approves leave of subordinates.

Perform other duties as assigned.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGES

Must be able to lead and direct workers. Must be able to lay out and check completed work. Must have knowledge of deck operations and equipment on hopper dredges. Must have knowledge of welding techniques, equipment and materials. The incumbent is required to possess U. S. Coast Guard Motorboat Operator and AB certificates. Must have the ability to use and lead in the procedures associated with living on a vessel, such as firefighting, first aid and use of life saving equipment.

RESPONSIBILITY

Works under supervision of the Assistant Master or Mate who makes work assignments and outlines overall work requirements. Receives guidance on new or unusual tasks, but generally is expected to carry out assignments on own initiative in accordance with established methods and procedures. Work is spot-checked.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Works mostly outside exposed to various weather conditions. Possibility of falling or slipping on wet decks, ladders, etc. Possibility of drowning exists in the case of collision or more especially, when working over the side. Subject to dust, grease and soiling of clothing and skin surfaces.

PHYSICAL EFFORT

Moderate to heavy lifting is typically required. Must possess sufficient agility to climb ladders in all sea conditions and to work in close quarters.